

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/600,571
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

A process for purifying exhaust gas from a gasoline engine of the fuel-direct-injection type purifies exhaust gas that varies, in response to changes in the air-fuel ratio, between the first exhaust-gas state featured by an air-fuel ratio in the vicinity of the stoichiometrical air-fuel ratio and the second exhaust-gas state that forms a more oxidizing, low-temperature atmosphere and that is featured by an air-fuel ratio greater than the stoichiometrical air-fuel ratio, by using an exhaust-gas purifying catalyst (12) that contains at least one kind of noble ~~metals~~ metal, such as platinum, ~~and transition metals~~ and, preferably, a transition metal. ~~With the above mentioned process, exhaust gas, which is discharged from a gasoline engine of the fuel direct-injection type (1) that allows the air fuel ratio to change between the stoichiometrical air fuel ratio and air fuel ratios within the lean burn mode, is purified by using the single purifying use catalyst; therefore, it is possible to simplify the purifying operation for exhaust gas whose compositions and temperature vary widely due to frequent changes in the air fuel ratio.~~